GENERAL PORTUONDO SPEAKS FOR

CUBAN COMMISSION.

Stumbling Block Removed by the Con-

ference With President

McKinley.

The New York Tribune of today says:

From a statement made yesterday by General Rafael Portuondo, one of the five Cu-

ban commissioners now in this city, much

of the mystery which has surrounded the mission of the delegation to this country is dissipated. The commissioners have since

their arrival here maintained the closest

secrecy regarding their conferences with

President McKinley and other high officers

at Washington, and they have heretofore

met all questions as to what message they

are taking back to their countrymen with

When pressed for a statement, however.

yesterday afternoon, General Portuondo at

"A great stumbling block has been removed. That is all I care to say."

"What stumbling block do you mean senor?" was asked.

"Section three of the Platt amendment," was the answer. Then, after some deliberation, he added:

"Let me tell you, so that you will un-derstand." Here the Cuban paused a mo-ment, as if revolving some weighty ques-

Afraid of Our Armies.

"The Cubans have been afraid of your armies. They fear what some call imperialism. Now, in section three, I think, of

the Platt amendment it is provided that the United States may send troops into

Cuba whenever in the opinion of Washing-

ton such action is necessary. This provision awakened widespread suspicion. Many

said that it was only a pretext for the United States to continue a standing army

in Cuba for all time. The presence of sol-diers, and especially those of another peo-ple, cannot but be onerous and discomfit-ing to us.

"Others said that although the United States might withdraw her forces now she could, under this provision, immediately send them back again. This, then, was a

send them back again. This, then, was a stumbling block. It was perhaps magnified in the eyes of the common people, and they demanded that if these suspicions were well founded such a measure should

not, receive our sanction.
"But President McKinley soon assured us

that these suspicions were groundless. When we said that by this provision the

United States had more jurisdiction over Cuba than over any one of its own states.

because in the latter case I understand the national government cannot send troops into a state without the permission of the state government, he said:

"'Gentlemen, you need have no fear.
Troops will not be sent into Cuba unless conditions are little less than anarchy.'
"The President's answer so convinced us that we could not but be impressed with his sincerity."

"How do the Cubans feel in regard to independence?" was asked. Cubans Want Independence. "Ninety-nine per cent of our people," the general answered, "want independence. They will not even listen to annexation.

They want independence, absolute independence. Now, I do not mean that the Cuban people are not disposed to give the

Americans everything that they, the Amer-

americans everything enactiney, the Americans, will need for their own defense. I tell you that if the question of independence is settled and all differences on the subject are eliminated, everything else can

be arranged."
"What do you mean by independence?

Does not each state of the United States have independence?" the reporter asked.
"By independence I mean sovereignty.

We want to regulate our own internation-

al affairs. But our preferences will be for America, to help and support her in case

of need."
"Were there not many other questions

embodied in the Platt amendment which you discussed with the President?"
"Yes. There are many things in the Platt amendment which we came here to

ater."
"How about the selection and granting

"As to these I cannot say. Such questions will be left to the constitutional con-

Sure of His Position. "Yes, I am sure. And I believe that

Washington will soon announce to the

the convention on your return?"
"That is to be determined on our way home from this port. We will, of course, report what we have learned. I do not know how the others feel exactly, but as

for myself I shall urge the convention to accept the Platt amendment."

The commissioners spent the most of their time yesterday in each going his in-

dividual way. Three of them were guests of General Brooke for luncheon at Governor's Island. Later a conference was called at their rooms, in the Fifth Avenue

Hotel, where all five commissioners re-ceived T. Estrada Palma, the head of the

Cuban junta in this city during the war.

Before the meeting had ended a report
was current that the commissioners had
asked General Palma if he would accept

Pride of Ancestry.

Not long since an acquaintance of mine

said to me, with an air of pride, "I can

trace back my ancestry to my great-greatgrandfather's great-great-grandfather. He

was a cavalier, and fought under Charles

answered him. "That was the eighth generation before you, and in that generation

you had 128 forefathers and 128 foremoth-

ers, and you can account for but one of them, just 1-256 of your ancestry in that

generation. Among the 127 men of whom

you have never heard there may have

been several who were hanged for murder,

burglary or sheep stealing, for all that you know or can ever hope to know. Nor can you tell how many disreputable char-

acters there may have been among the 128 women. And you must remember, too, that you had sixty-four foremothers in the seventh generation, and thirty-two in the fifth, all of them nearer to you than that cavalier. You must account for them as well."

Yet, of course, one should be glad that his near lineal and collateral kin have been and are honest men and virtuous women, but a line must be drawn somewhere, and that not many generations back, beyond which there is no such thing as good birth or had birth becaute it is all bath

birth or bad birth, because it is all both good and bad. When any one begins to boast that he comes of "a long line of proud ancestry" he can be contradicted at

proud ancestry" he can be contradicted at once, because there is no such thing as "a long line of ancestry." One's ancestry cannot be represented by a "line," but by an inverted pyramid. Every one of us comes not of one, but of many hundreds and thousands of long lines of ancestry, some of them proud, perhaps, and others with no cause for pride, but rather the reverse. It will not do to try to follow them all too far back. Some one of the many will surely lead to a dungeon of the Newgate prison, or it may be to the Tyburn gallows tree. We cannot pin our faith to the one cavalier and ignore all the others, as my friend was trying to do, because it is nature's plan that all the good and all the bad of the race should be mixed up in each one of us.

"And what does that amount to?" I

the presidency of the new republic.

From Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

world that Cuba is a sovereign power, and 🖠 that Cuba will indeed be a nation by Feb-"What recommendations will you make to

tion in his mind. Then he continued:

last said:

clasp, in tans, modes, castor, brand white, at \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.

Parasol Elegancies. Rich, Handsome Pongee Silk Parasols,
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Beautiful Taffeta Silk Parasols, in plain, henstliched, tucked, corded and fancy striped and plaid effects, at \$1.50 to \$7.50. 121/2c. Vests, 9c.

Lot of Ladies' 124c. Low-neck Vests—only half dozen to a customer, Oc. Hosiery Specials. Ladles' 15c. Quality Fast 121/2c. Black Cotton Hose special. 121/2c. Ladles' Fine Black Gauze Cotton Hose, double heel and toe 25c. special.

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In polka dots, stripes and plain liberties, sateens, mercellieux and louisines.

Special Beautiful p.in. Liberty Silk Sash Ribbons, in white and col. 85c.

New colorings in Fancy Ribbons for dress trimmings.

Toilet Requisites. Terry Bath Towels, 121ge., 25c. and

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It is now that men and women want to know how to get relief from spring weariness and exhaustion.

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Garments that are elegantly tailored-perfect in fit and deserving of a better fate; the handsomest patterns-will go tomorrow

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Patterns that are seldom seen outside of a merchant tailor's; English worsteds, imported cassimeres, homespuns, &c .-- crowdbringers at the price of......

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\$25 "TUXEDO" DRESS SUITS, \$13.50.

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Smyrna Rugs, 18x36 in \$1.00	For \$0.65
Smyrna Russ 21v44 in 150	.95
Smyrna Rugs, 26x54 in 2.25	1.35
Smyrna Rugs, 30x60 in 2.75	1.65
Smyrna Rugs, 36x72 in 4.00	2.50
Smyrna Rugs, 4 ft, x 7 ft 6 75	4.50
Smyrna Rugs, 6 ft. x 9 ft. 12.50 Smyrna Rugs, 7.6x10.6 ft. 17.50	7.50
Smyrna Rugs, 7.6v10.6 ft 17.50	10.50
Smyrna Rugs, 9x12 ft 25.00	15.00
Smyrna Rugs, 6 ft. x 9 ft 15,00	10.50
Smyrna Rugs, 7.6x10.6 ft 23.75	15.25
Smyrna Rugs, 9x12 ft 32.50	19.95
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Moquette Rugs, 18x36 in 1.00 Moquette Rugs, 27x64 in 2.50 Satin Jute Rugs, 36x72 in 3.50	1.45
Satin Jute Rugs, 36x72 in 3.50	1.95
Reversible Jute Rugs, 6x9 ft. 9.00	5.50
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Reversible Jute Rugs, 9x12 ft. 16.00	10.50
Smyrna Hall Rugs, 2.6x9 ft	9.00
Smyrna Hall Rugs, 2 6x12 ft	12.00
Smyrna Hall Fugs, 2.6x15 ft	15.00
Smyrna Hall Eugs, 3x9 ft	11.00
Smyrna Hall Rugs, 2-6x9 ft. Smyrna Hall Rugs, 2-6x12 ft. Smyrna Hall Fugs, 2-6x12 ft. Smyrna Hall Fugs, 3x9 ft. Smyrna Hall Rugs, 3x12 ft.	14.00
SHIPTHE PIRE RUSS, AND TE.	17.00
Mottled Smyrma Mats, 16x34 in. 40	.21
Wilton Rugs, 27x54 in 3 50 Wilton Rugs, 9x12 ft 40.00	2.50
Wilton Rugs, 9x12 11	29.75
One-piece Axminster Rugs,	
27x54 in	2.50
6x9 ft	12.50
One-piece Axminster Rugs, 7.6x10 6 ft 32.50	12.30
7.6x10.6 ft	22.50
Sarabend Rugs, 27x54 in 3 50	2.50
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Such metal little 100.44 II	25.00
Calcutta Rugs, 30x60 in	1.25
Calcutta Rugs, 6 ft. x 9 ft	6.00
Calcutta Rugs, 9 ft. x 12 ft	12.00
Fluff Rugs, 26x52 in	1.50
Fluff Rugs 30v60 in	2.00
Fluff Rugs, 36x72 in	2.50
Finit Rings, 4 ft. x 7 ft.	4.00
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Hirma Rugs, 9x12 ft \$35.00	21.50
Hirma Rugs, 9x12 ft\$35.00 Sarak Rugs, 9 ft. x 12 ft 40.00	32.50
	45c.
Russian Rugs, 21x44 in 1.25	75c.
Russian Rugs, 21x44 in. 1.25 Russian Rugs, 26x54 in. 1.75 Russian Rugs, 30x60 in. 2.60	1.10
Russian Rugs, 30x60 in 2 00 Russian Rugs, 36x72 in 3 00	1.25
Russian Rugs, 36x72 in. 3 00	1.75
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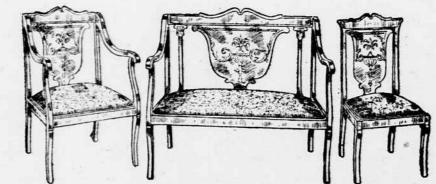
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Side Lights on History. From the Chicago Tribune. "Still," muttered Moll Pitcher at the bat

each one of us.

or the Daughters of the American Revo-lution. I'm only a washer woman—and, besides, they'd never forgive me for car-rying that water myself instead of hiring a boy to do it!" If you want work read the want columns of The Star.

tle of Monmouth, as she took her place at

the cannon and rammed the charge home

amid the cheers of the soldiers, "I don't

suppose I'd be eligible for membership either in the Society of the Colonial Dames

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vention at Havana."

"Are you sure, then, that the United States will grant Cuba its desired independence?" Summer Underwear.

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